

CLASSIFICATION in Class. 1

DECLASSIFIED

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CONFIDENTIAL

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Egypt

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DATE:

INFO.

SUBJECT Morocco Defense Committee Meeting

DIST. 17 December 1946

PAGES 2 25X1A2g

SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN 25X1A6a

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This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1975 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

1. On 17 November 1946, the Morocco Defense Committee of Cairo (Rabitat al-Difa'a An-Murakkish) held a reception at Shephard's Hotel on the occasion of the anniversary of the accession to the throne of Sidi Muhammad, Sultan of French Morocco. This Committee had remained inactive since it was organized in 1942.

2. Hajj Amin al-Husayni, the Grand Mufti, sent a telegram regretting his absence because of poor health. Other Arab personalities and visiting Arab League delegates who failed to attend the celebration equally sent congratulatory messages. In addition to the Committee members, a gathering of Arab notables participated in the celebration. The following were observed among the guests:

- (a) Abd-al-Rahman 'Azzam, General-Secretary of the Arab League;
- (b) Abd-al-Maguid Ben Galun, Morocco Defense Committee member;
- (c) Sheikh Abd-al-Salam al-Banani, Committee member;
- (d) Sheikh Abd-al-Karim Sabat, Committee member;
- (e) Ahmed al-Mali'ah, Moroccan Independence Party representative;
- (f) Muhammad Ben Abd-al-Salam Ben Abud, Moroccan delegate to the Cultural Committee of Arab League;*;
- (g) Dr. Fadhil al-Jamali, Iraqi Minister of Foreign Affairs and President of the Iraqi delegation to Arab League;
- (h) Al-Sa'id Jalal Baban, Iraqi Minister of Education;
- (i) Ibrahim Akaf al-Alusi, Iraqi Minister to Egypt;
- (j) Fawzi al-Jabbari, Iraqi Minister to Egypt;
- (k) Sa'di Allah al-Munla, Premier of Lebanon;*
- (l) Sheikh Sami al-Khuri, Lebanese Minister to Egypt;
- (m) Fawzi al-Malki, Minister of Trans-Jordan to Egypt;
- (n) Mansur Qattara, President of Rabitat Tarablus (Tripoli Society);
- (o) Sheikh Umar Ali al-Ghawayli, President of Nadi Tarablus al-Qharb (Western Tripoli Club);
- (p) Muhammad al-Hajj Nasir al-Ghawayli, Algerian Defense Committee member;
- (q) Isma'il al-Azhari, President of Sudanese delegation;
- (r) Sheikh Muhammad Abd-al-Latif Darras, Administrative Officer of al-Azhari;
- (s) Ahmad al-Sukkari, Vice-President of Ikhwan al-Muslimin;
- (t) Muhammad Salah al-Din Bay, an associate of the Grand Mufti (Wafdist ex-Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs?).

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ADSO	FBK	FBT	SPDF	VTO
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Comments:

disseminated on 27 March 1946, stated that the appointment of Muhammad Abd-al-Salam Ben Abud as head of the Moroccan delegation (appointment later rescinded) aroused a good deal of opposition because of his strong pro-Spain tendencies.

**It was reported by radio that the Lebanese Cabinet had resigned on 7 December 1946.

3. Ahmad al-Mali'ah (para 2f) and Abd-al-Maguid Ben Galun (para 2b) in turn addressed the gathering, attacking French, British, and American imperialism, and depicting the plight of the Moroccans under French and Spanish rule. They implored the help of the Arab League and urged united action by all the Islamic countries of the world to emancipate the Moroccans and the other enslaved Arab peoples.
4. In defending the Arab League, 'Azzam promised to mobilize all possible assistance for the Moroccans, flatly dismissing accusations against the League. He reviewed the history of French Morocco, emphasizing the responsibilities of the French in achieving the welfare and the final independence of Morocco.
5. Between the speeches and following the program, small groups gathered, discussing various phases of Arab affairs. Of particular interest were the private opinions expressed by al-Ghuwayli (para 2o), al-Azhari (2q), and Jalal Baban (2h). In discussing Saudi Arabian problems, the three men examined the aspects of Sheikh Abd-Allah al-Soliman's mission to the United States. They expressed satisfaction that the Saudi Arabian Minister of Finance had been successful in securing contracts of American companies for extensive public works and improvements in Saudi Arabia, hoping that England this time would not interfere with long term American projects in that and other Arab countries. Surprise was evidenced that the Soviet Union was not mentioned once throughout the proceedings. Although ignored during the festivities, "the Soviet Union is very much among us," they agreed.

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